TDA, have conducted various studies/market surveys/seminars/workshops/projects and published 13 different reports during the year 1993-94.

(c) and (d) With the growth of erstwhile TDA and TFAI, it was found that there was considerable over-lapping and complementarity in their working in the respective fields of participation in fairs and also organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets. The Government decided to merge the two erstwhile organisations as it is expected that the integration of the two organisations into one unit will yield better programme coordination and maximum utilisation of the expertise available on Ex-TFAI and Ex-TDA side to each other and thus provide a kind of trade promotion support which can pay for itself to a large extent through its usefulness, timeliness and quality of service rendered to the users.

Norms for export houses

4313. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have recently relax and norms for the export houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these export houses would benefit as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) No Sir. The eligibility norms for the recognition as Export House remain unchanged.

Proposal to review Export Oriented Unit Schemes

4314. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review the working of Export Oriented Units Scheme in view of persistent complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that exporters' performances during the past several years have been declining due to ineffective EOU scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Review of the EOU Scheme is an on-going process, which is done from time to time on the basis of representations/demand from EOUs.

The policy and procedures for the EOU Scheme have been reviewed last year by a Committee comprising of representatives from Trade and Industry, concerned Ministries and field organisations etc. Action on the recommendations of the Committee has been initiated and certain amendments to EXIM Policy effected.

(c) and (d) The exports from EOU sector are growing and reached a level of Rs. 1946 crores in 1992-93 against Rs. 1046 crores in the previous year. Exports in 1993-94 are also expected to maintain an upward trend.

Joint Business Council Agreement

4315. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 countries have approached India for entering into Joint Business Council Agreement with them for the promotion of trade and investment flows;

(b) if so, what are the names of such countries; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of countries are as under :

(1) Morocco
(2) Uganda
(3) The Philippines
(4) Macedonia
(5) Mozambique
(6) Kuwait
(7) Syria